



RockvilleReports

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Celebrate Independence Day with Fireworks in King Farm

Make plans to celebrate July Fourth with family and friends at the city's annual Independence Day celebration on Tuesday, July 4.

Hosted by the Mayor and Council, the celebration is held annually at the 26-acre Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, in King Farm, which offers easy access and ample free parking, with convenient exits within a short walk of fireworks viewing areas.

The celebration includes live music by the Rockville Concert Band at 6 p.m. and country artist Shane Gamble at 7 p.m., and a fabulous 20-minute fireworks display at 9:15 p.m. There is no rain date. The entertainment and fireworks can be viewed from the park grounds. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and food and beverage.

To prepare for the celebration, the Rockville Dog Park at Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park will be closed

GET THERE

WHAT: Independence Day Celebration

WHEN: Tuesday, July 4, 6-9:30 p.m.

WHERE: Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive

from 7 a.m. on Monday, July 3 until 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5. The fireworks safety zone, which includes the football fields, tennis courts, playground and parking lots, will be closed from noon on Monday, July 3-Tuesday, July 4. There will be limited access to other parts of the park from Saturday, July 1-Tuesday, July 4.

Parking will be available in lots on Shady Grove and Gaither roads and Piccard Drive, near the park. Rockville police will guide traffic to and from the designated lots before and after the event.

Find a full schedule, parking maps and more at www.rockvillemd.gov/independenceday or call 240-314-8620. ✚

World's Flags Fly Over Rockville

One-hundred and ninety-three flags from United Nation countries have been installed around Rockville.

The idea for the flags emerged out of a town hall meeting, held Feb. 9, part of an ongoing, citywide discussion on diversity. Residents suggested that an international display of flags would not only demonstrate the city's commitment to inclusivity, but colorfully represent Rockville's multicultural appeal.

The flags were mounted beginning in early May, on light poles throughout the city.

In February, Rockville was recognized as the ninth most culturally diverse city in the U.S., according to WalletHub. In cities of equivalent size, Rockville ranked fourth. More than a third of Rockville residents were born outside the U.S., according to Census data. ✚



International flags fly along West Montgomery Avenue, above. The Albanian flag, below left, and the Lebanese flag, below right.



Rockville Bans Smoking and Vaping in Outdoor Serving Areas

Patrons of Rockville's bars and restaurants will no longer be able to smoke in outdoor serving areas in the city, following a vote on a prohibition by the Mayor and Council at their Monday, May 22 meeting.

Under the ordinance, owners, managers or employees of restaurants and bars cannot knowingly allow smoking or vaping on patios, decks, porches or at other outdoor serving areas. Also, according to the ordinance, owners, managers and employees must:

- Refuse to wait upon, serve, seat or accommodate any person who is smoking or vaping where smoking and vaping are prohibited in an outdoor serving area.
- Request that the person smoking or vaping cease that activity.
- Request the person to leave the building or area if the person continues to smoke or vape in an outdoor serving area after the person has been asked to refrain.

Enforcement of the smoking/vaping ban will be conducted by the Rockville City Police Department. Specific

finances for violating the ban will be set at the July 10 Mayor and Council meeting.

Food service facilities will be required to post conspicuous signs announcing the vaping/smoking prohibition.

In October 2015, the Mayor and Council voted unanimously to follow Montgomery County code, allowing a countywide ban on smoking and vaping to apply to city property, including city parks, community centers, RedGate Golf Course and all city facilities.

According to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, 392 municipalities in the U.S. prevent smoking in the outdoor serving areas of restaurants; 233 of those also have smoke-free outdoor bar-patio laws. With passage of the ordinance, Rockville and La Plata become the only jurisdictions in Maryland to have banned smoking and vaping in serving areas outdoors.

Information about the ban can be found with the May 22 agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ✚



SUCH DEVOTED SISTERS... (L to R) Bürgermeisterin Urte Steinberg (mayor of Pinneberg, Germany), Pinneberg delegation chair and Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft (German-American Society) Rockville-Pinneberg director Margrit Ziegler and Rockville Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton unveil benches in the Pinneberg Rosengarten. The benches were gifts from the City of Rockville, the Rockville Sister City Corporation and DAGRP and include commemorative plaques in German and English. RSCC and members of the Rockville Mayor and Council visited Pinneberg for a week in June, part of celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the municipalities' sister city relationship. A Pinneberg delegation visits Rockville in October. Read more about the Oct. 7 Rocktoberfest celebration on page 6 and RSCC's July 30 dim sum fundraiser on the page 7 calendar.



Most City Facilities Closed July Fourth

City Hall and the following city facilities will be closed Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day: Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers; the Rockville Senior Center; Croydon Creek Nature Center; Glenview Mansion, including the mansion's art gallery; and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and its box office.

Theater tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will close at 6 p.m. Find summer hours for individual swim center facilities at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

Recycling, yard waste and refuse will not be collected on July 4. After regular collection on Monday, July 3, collections will be made one day later through Friday. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse or call 240-314-8568.

Parking at city-owned meters will be free.

For more information, call 240-314-5000. ✚

In This Issue...

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- 4 Rockville is 'still in' on Paris climate accord.**
- 8 Planning underway for Swim and Fitness Center renovations.**

MAYOR & COUNCIL
111 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364

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Rockville Rewards Cards for 2017-18 On Sale Aug. 1

Save money while supporting your community with Rockville Rewards discount cards.

Nonprofits sell Rockville Rewards cards and keep 100 percent of the proceeds to support programs such as scholarships, homeless shelters and free medical clinics.

The cards cost \$25 and can be purchased directly from a nonprofit partner or at www.rockvillerewards.com/buy, where pre-orders are now being accepted for cards for 2017-2018.

The current cards are good until Aug. 31 for discounts at nearly 145 area businesses. The new cards are on sale beginning Aug. 1 and will offer savings through August 2018.

Launched in 2009, Rockville Rewards is a program of the Rockville Chamber of Commerce, with grant funding from the City of Rockville. The chamber serves members through networking events, business connections and acting as a liaison between businesses and the city. Learn more at www.rockvillechamber.org.

Rockville is a 'Banner City' — Again

Rockville has once again been named a "Banner City" by the Maryland Municipal League, which recognizes the municipalities' elected and appointed officials as the league's most engaged members.

According to the MML, municipalities designated as banner city or towns:

- Are recognized among their peers as an active participant in showcasing municipal government and how it works.
- Work together as a municipality to help strengthen their membership league.
- Foster goodwill by educating youth about municipal government.
- Maximize their MML membership by taking part in league programs and activities.
- Ensure the voice of their municipality is heard on issues relevant to the membership and in matters of legislative priorities.

Fifty-nine of the state's 124 municipalities received the designation in 2016. The towns and cities receiving the designation this year were honored at MML's annual summer convention, held June 25-28 in Ocean City.

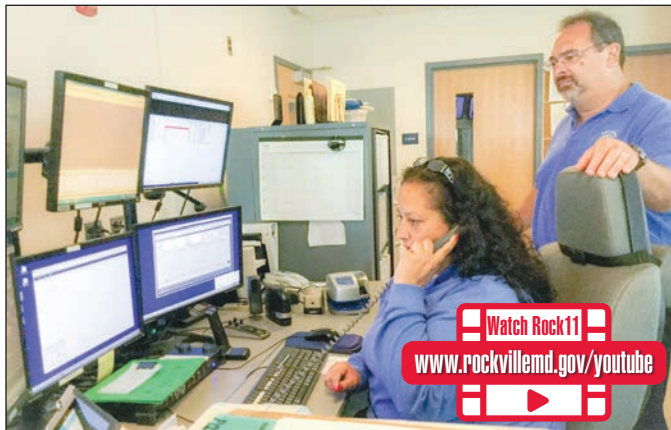
Mayor and Council to Hold Hearing on Procurement Sections of City Code

The Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing during their meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, July 10 on proposed changes to the city code, including an amendment that would change the title of Chapter 17 from "Purchasing" to "Procurement."

Persons wishing to testify should call 240-314-8280 before 4 p.m. July 10 to place their names on the speakers' list and/or submit testimony in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or to City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Proposed changes to the code include defining the authority and duties of the city's purchasing agent, and provisions for certification of funds, unauthorized purchases and voidable contracts, formal solicitations and competitive sealed bidding, and ranking of proposals. Other proposed changes call for new sections on contract modifications, change orders and price adjustments, contract awards, and sole source procurement. Some of the proposed changes would implement recommendations of the city's Purchasing Study.

Find a full list of the proposed changes with the March 27 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. For more information, call Jessica Blow, director of procurement, at 240-314-8432.



Police dispatchers Alice Frishkorn (left) and Karl Nadler in the RCPD Communication Center.

Answering the Call: Rockville's Police Dispatchers

Rockville 11's latest edition of "Rockville Roll Call" takes a closer look at the Rockville City Police Department dispatchers who monitor city facilities for security and help with calls for service within the city.

The Rockville City Police

Department's dispatchers assisted city police officers in responding to nearly 115,000 calls between May 2016 and May 2017.

See them in action: Visit www.youtube.com/cityofrockville and search "RCPD Dispatch." ❖



THANKS FOR THOSE WHO PROTECT AND SERVE... The 28th Annual Rockville Public Safety Awards were held June 14 at Lakewood Country Club. Members of the Rockville City Police Department receiving citations were (L to R): Police Communications Operator Monique Michael, Cpl. Javier Baquero, Officer Kevin McBride, Officer Brandon Thomas, Officer Brian Van Fossen and Police Communications Operator Karl Nadler. Not pictured: Officer Seth Creel and Police Communications Operator Edwina Ritchie.

LGBTQ Community Police Academy

Sponsored by the Rockville City Police Department

Elwood Smith Community Center
601 Harrington Road, Rockville, MD 20850

Please join us as we host Rockville's first Community Police Academy geared specifically towards the LGBTQ community.

Topics to be covered:

- Patrol Procedures
- Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ Community
- Emergency Preparedness
- K-9 Demonstration
- RCPD Transgender Policy

*The curriculum is still being completed. If there are additional topics you are interested in learning about, please contact us.

To register, contact:

Sgt. Jan Seilhamer at
jseilhamer@rockvillemd.gov or
240-314-8978.

**Saturday
Sept. 16**

**9 a.m.-
5 p.m.**



Rockville City Police Department
2 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850
www.rockvillemd.gov



Community and Crime Prevention on National Night Out

Block Parties Offer Opportunity to Meet Neighbors, Connect with Police Officers

Rockville neighbors are invited to celebrate their communities on Tuesday, Aug. 1 as the Rockville City Police Department (RCPD) participates in National Night Out.

Now in its 33rd year, National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. It aims to raise awareness about crime and drug prevention, generate support for anti-crime programs and strengthen community spirit and community policing partnerships. Neighborhoods will host block parties featuring cookouts, bounce houses, carnival games and giveaways.

McGruff the Crime Dog will stop by several

block parties to spread his anti-crime and anti-drug message. The Mayor and Council, RCPD officers and members of the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office also will visit many of the gatherings.

Residents are invited to turn on outdoor lights as part of the traditional display of front porch vigils, sending the message to criminals that neighborhoods are fighting back against crime.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/nno. To register your block party, contact Cpl. Ken Matney at 240-314-8922 or kmatney@rockvillemd.gov. ❖



Contribute to the Future of Caregiver Funding Decisions

The Mayor and Council are seeking volunteers to recommend changes to Rockville's caregiver funding process. The Caregiver Funding Task Force will examine the city's grant process, review processes used by other jurisdictions, identify best practices and recommend a comprehensive process for reviewing applications and proposing funding.

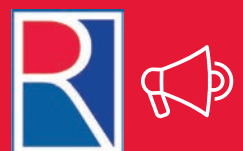
The nine-member task force, to be appointed by the Mayor and Council, will include representatives of specific stakeholder groups and two Rockville residents from the community at large. Meetings will be held monthly. The group

is tasked with providing a report and presentation of their recommendations to the Mayor and Council within one year of the task force's first meeting.

Rockville caregiver agencies provide a variety of services to those in need, including housing, health care, food, clothing and senior support services.

To apply to serve on the task force, complete the application at www.rockvillemd.gov/boards commissions.

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 or cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov. ❖



ROCKVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT SUMMER CRIME PREVENTION TIPS: • Don't advertise vacation plans. Have a trusted neighbor, friend or relative check on your home while you are away. Stop mail and paper deliveries. Set timers on lights in rooms that are normally used. • Always lock bicycles to a stationary object. The best device is a hardened steel u-shaped lock. • When working in the yard, make sure front, rear and garage doors are locked.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
240-314-8291
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
240-314-8293
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Virginia D. Onley
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Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr
240-314-8295
jpalakovichcarr@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
240-314-8292
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

Upcoming Meetings: Monday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m.* and Wednesday, Aug. 2* at 7 p.m. Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by councilmembers Mark Pierzchala on July 10 and Virginia D. Onley on Aug. 2. *Note: Early meeting time and Wednesday date.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Find the drop-in schedule at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.

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Rockville's Mayor and Council Adopt \$130.3 Million Budget Property Tax Rate Remains Constant for the Tenth Consecutive Year

Rockville residents will pay the same property tax rate as they have for the last nine fiscal years, after the Mayor and Council approved the \$130.3 million Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

Highlights include funding for three new police officers; expanded Senior Center hours and senior support services; consultant services for urban planning and design efforts and to improve citywide wayfinding; a new Rocktoberfest (see page 6 for details) and an expanded Lunar New Year celebration; and extended summer camp offerings.

The FY 2018 budget represents a 3.2 percent, or \$4 million, increase over the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. The general fund, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, equals \$79.7 million, a 3.3 percent increase. The 2018 fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2018.

Property tax rates will remain \$0.292 for real property and \$0.805 for personal property. Both are per \$100 of assessed

value. The budget continues the city's supplement to Maryland's Homeowner's Tax Credit, for low- to moderate-income homeowners to apply toward taxes due on their principal residence.

Based on adopted FY18 rates, average annual residential bills for property taxes and city utilities for a family of four will increase by \$170, or 4.9 percent. Fees for recycling and refuse services will increase by \$21 per year.

The Capital Improvements Program, the city's five-year plan for funding new construction and infrastructure maintenance, includes \$19.9 million in new funding, combined with a carry-over of \$49.4 million, to support 49 projects.

For a list of major CIP projects and more information about the FY18 budget, visit RockvilleReports.com and search "budget." ❖

Praise for the Process, City Staff

The Mayor and Council held

three work sessions and three public hearings, and solicited budget ideas from the public through the city's website. After adopting the budget May 1, the mayor and councilmembers offered praise for the process and for city staff.

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg praised city staff "for all the guidance and professionalism that they exhibited going through this budget process," adding that the public hearing process "went a long way to getting resident input and business input too."

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton said the FY 2018 budget process was "terrific," and singled out City Manager Rob DiSpirito and city budget staff. "In seven years, this has been the best budget process I've been through with the city. And I thank you all very, very much for your transparency, for your inclusion of the comments, concerns and questions from myself and the councilmembers." ❖

Rockville Mayor and Council Enact 'Fostering Community Trust' Ordinance

Rockville's Mayor and Council voted June 19 to adopt "Fostering Community Trust," an ordinance that amends and adds a section to Chapter 11 of the City of Rockville's "Human Rights" code.

The ordinance restricts all City of Rockville employees — including police officers — from requesting citizenship or immigration status of any person unless required by law.

According to the ordinance, "by codifying the City of Rockville's informal policy, Rockville residents will be ensured that City of Rockville employees and law enforcement officers will follow certain procedures when interacting with and providing services to the public."

Rockville will continue to follow federal law as it applies to the city. Federal law does not require local governments to enforce federal civil immigration laws.

Rockville is among the nation's most diverse communities. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011-2015 American Community Survey, of the city's total population of 64,331, 20.5 percent are Asian, 15.7 percent are Hispanic or Latino and 9.8 percent are black.

Find video and more information with the June 19 agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❖

City Wish List for Federal Aid: Metro, Police and Infrastructure

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and city staff took the following requests for federal support to a June 13 meeting with the city's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

- **Metro funding:** Federal funding to maintain and improve the Metrorail system, ensuring the system's safety and reliability. Metro is critical to Rockville's transportation network and is heavily relied upon by residents, workers and city visitors.
- **Community Oriented Policing Services grant:** A request to re-establish a technology and equipment grant through the federal program known as COPS. The Rockville City Police Department is seeking federal funding to replace its 12-year-old Mobile Command Center vehicle and equipment, and to purchase forward-looking infrared spotlights for 25 police vehicles, which can help to locate missing or lost individuals. The department also will apply for a COPS hiring grant
- to expand community policing.
- **Cybersecurity training and upgrades:** A request for federal funding to make cybersecurity upgrades identified by the United States Department of Homeland Security. DHS recommends cybersecurity training for city staff; the incorporation of cybersecurity and business continuity into emergency planning and disaster recovery efforts; and tests and upgrades of city networks, including the control system of the city's water treatment plant.
- **Community Development Block Grant:** A request that this federal grant funding, which has been cut significantly in recent years, not be cut further. The city puts the funding toward housing rehabilitation for low-income homeowners and other low- and moderate-income housing rehabilitation.
- **Infrastructure upgrades:** Requests for federal fund-

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- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. (Learn more below.) Find other ways to give your time and talents to your community at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280 or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boards commissions. The webpage also includes schedules and cancellations, and contact information.

Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **July 5, Aug. 2,** Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee 7 p.m.
- **July 6, Aug. 3,** Environment Commission, 7 p.m.
- **July 8,** Board of Appeals 9 a.m.*
- **July 12, 26,** Planning Commission 7 p.m.*
- **July 12, Aug. 23,** Sign Review board 9 a.m.
- **July 18,** Historic District Comm. 7 p.m.
- **July 18, Aug. 15,** Rockville Seniors, Inc. 1 p.m. 1150 Carnation Dr.
- **July 19, Aug. 16,** Rockville Sister City Corporation 7 p.m.
- **July 20, Aug. 17,** Senior Citizens Commission 1 p.m. 1150 Carnation Dr.
- **July 25,** Board of Supervisors of Elections 6 p.m.
- **July 26, Aug. 23,** Human Rights Commission 7:30 p.m.
- **July 26,** Rockville Housing Enterprises 6:30 p.m. 621-A Southlawn Lane.
- **Aug. 1,** Asian Pacific American Task Force 7:30 p.m.
- **Aug. 8,** Human Services Advisory Commission 6:30 p.m.

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Environment Commission (2)
- Historic District Comm. (1 reg/1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (1)
- Human Services Advisory Comm. (1 caregiver, 1 at-large)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (1)
- Planning Commission (2)
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (1)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (1)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (3)
- Sign Review Board (1 alt.)
- Traffic and Transportation Comm. (1)



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting. Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/notifyme to receive an email or text message when a new agenda is posted.

Mentoring Program Yields Rewards for Mentors and Young Students

Rockville's Program Celebrates its 22nd Year in 2017-18

Rockville's mentoring program can be as worthwhile for the mentors as it is for the young people whose lives those mentors influence. Mentees are selected by the schools and are in second to fifth grade.

The program, which celebrates its 22nd year during the 2017-18 school year, is looking for high school students (age 16 and older) and adults to offer guidance, friendship and encouragement to elementary school students. No special skills are required, just a willingness to devote an hour a week to work with a child, consistency and patience.

The program has expanded to its largest size in years, with 60 students across Twinbrook, Meadow Hall, Beall and Ritchie Park elementary schools. The time commitment is one hour a week from October through May. Student Service Learning credits are available to high school students.

The program is professionally run by the city's Community Services Division in partnership with the county school system. Volunteers must be screened and interviewed before the program begins. Mentors receive training before they start and guidance and support along the way.

Learn more about how you can help a young person. Contact Kate Bouwkamp at 240-314-8317 or kbouwkamp@rockvillemd.gov or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/mentoring.

Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan Zoning Text Amendment on July 10 Agenda

The Mayor and Council are scheduled July 10 to consider a draft zoning text amendment related to the Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan.

If approved, the proposed amendment would lead to changes to the city's zoning ordinance. Those changes would reflect policies outlined in the Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan, which was adopted in August 2016.

If approved by the Mayor and Council, the proposed amendment would be reviewed by the Planning Commission before returning to the Mayor and Council for a public hearing, likely in the fall. The draft text amendment will be available when the July 10 agenda is posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Next Stonestreet Study Meeting to Focus on MCPS Sites

The next meeting on the Stonestreet Corridor Study will focus on sites owned by Montgomery County Public Schools. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, July 13, at Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

The MCPS sites, at 570 and 595 N. Stonestreet Ave., were identified as key to the corridor by participants at the May 2 study kickoff meeting. More than 100 people from across Rockville attended that kickoff, including residents and representatives from the business community, churches, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and MCPS. Some of the issues raised included traffic and congestion, pedestrian safety, improving how the avenue looks, supporting existing businesses, keeping the area affordable, and promoting mixed-use development in certain areas. Future meetings will cover these and other topics.

For a more inclusive list, as well as to sign up for email updates or submit comments, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/stonestreetstudy. For more information, contact project lead Andrea Gilles at agilles@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8273.

Mayor and Council to Hold Hearing on Annual Federal Grant

Applications for Community Development Block Grants Due in September

Applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for Fiscal Year 2019 will be available July 18 on the City of Rockville's website. The allocation process for the grants begins this summer.

CDBG provides federal funding for housing and community development programs that benefit low- and moderate-income people. Rockville's CDBG funding comes through

Montgomery County.

The city will hold a public hearing on community needs on Sept. 11 and begin a competitive grant application process for nonprofit organizations and government entities to apply for funds. Grant applications are due by Sept. 15. The proposals will be reviewed and prioritized by city staff and forwarded, with recommendations, to Mayor and Council for review and approval this fall.

Interested community members and organizations should check Mayor and Council agendas in July at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and visit www.rockvillemd.gov/cdbg for updated information on the grant application.

For more information, contact Asmara Habte, chief of housing programs, at 240-314-8203 or ahabte@rockvillemd.gov.

Communitywide Rockville 2040 Meetings Being Planned for Fall

Two large citywide meetings are planned for the fall to bring ideas generated during Rockville 2040 listening sessions and forums to the wider community. The Rockville 2040 initiative is a comprehensive process dedicated to updating the city's Comprehensive Master Plan.

Meetings are being planned for the October and/or November timeframe (with more details to follow in a future edition of "Rockville Reports").

An intensive period of listening sessions and citywide forums, community and stakeholder meetings have been, and continue to be, held around Rockville to review draft concepts, including discussions with the Planning Commission and other boards and commissions.

Rockville residents will be asked for their views at the fall meetings, in advance of a draft Comprehensive Master Plan being finalized and released for formal public

input. The Comprehensive Master Plan's goal is to preserve and improve the quality of life in Rockville by guiding development and conservation, and ensuring the city can provide high-quality community facilities.

Visit the Rockville 2040 website at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville2040 to view presentations and sign up for email updates. For more information, email Ann Wallas at awallas@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8200.

Rockville Supports Paris Climate Accord Mayor and Council Back Goals Seeking to Counter Climate Change

The Mayor and Council on June 19 unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Paris climate accord and reinforcing the city's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing Rockville's resilience to climate change.

The Mayor and Council joined a coalition of more than 1,200 people, including state and local elected officials, and leaders in education, business and religion, who signed the "We Are Still In" letter in support of the agreement. The open letter states a commitment to a global effort to hold warming below 2 degrees Celsius and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.

Other signees include Montgomery County; Baltimore city; Gaithersburg; Garrett Park; College Park; Takoma Park; Washington Grove; Maryland's treasurer and attorney general; the Commonwealth of Virginia; and Washington, D.C.

The resolution or recommendation of the city's Environment Commission, recognizes the Mayor and Council's "strong legacy of commitments to climate leadership," which includes signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2006 and adopting resolutions to become a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Community, in 2011, and to enroll as a Maryland Smart Energy Community, establishing a 15 percent energy efficiency goal and 20 percent renewable energy goal for city facilities and operations, in 2013. It also states that the Mayor and Council will work with the community to develop a Rockville Climate Action Plan to reduce municipal and communitywide greenhouse gas emissions and recommend actions such as reducing energy consumption and growing the regional clean economy.

Learn more and find video of the June 19 agenda item at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.



REDI CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF BOOSTING ROCKVILLE BUSINESSES...

Rockville Economic Development, Inc. celebrated two decades as a driver of the city's economic engine during a luncheon June 7 at Lakewood Country Club. Pictured are (L to R): REDI Executive Director Laurie Boyer, former REDI board chair Ray Whalen, president of Whalen Properties, Inc.; REDI board member Todd Pearson, vice president of B.F. Saul Company; and Rockville Councilmember Mark Pierzchala. Since its founding as a public-private partnership in 1997, REDI's important work has included input on the Rockville Town Center master plan, securing a business incubator, establishing incentives to attract and retain businesses, and support for hundreds of businesses that have moved to and thrived in Rockville. Learn more by searching "REDI" at RockvilleReports.com and at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.



POPULAR ROCKVILLE II YOUTUBE VIDEOS FOR JUNE: Relive – or experience for the first time – Memorial Day in the city with the "29th Annual Hometown Holidays Music Festival," "2017 Rockville Memorial Day Ceremony" and "2017 Rockville Memorial Day Parade." Find a new way to get more news, more often with "Rock II Now Weekly." And hear what our lawmakers did in Annapolis this year with the "District 17 Delegation 2017 State Legislative Wrap-Up."

City's Water Quality Receives High Marks for Safety

Lead and Copper Monitoring Produces Good Results

Rockville's drinking water continues to be safe, the city's Department of Public Works said in the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report released June 30.

The report details the source, treatment, distribution, safety and quality of Rockville's drinking water. Once again in 2016, Rockville's drinking water met or exceeded all drinking water quality regulations

set by the Environmental Protection Agency and adopted and enforced by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Lead and copper testing of tap water samples taken from 33 addresses within the city in 2016 once again confirmed the safety of the city's water. The testing detected lead in just two samples, at levels far below where the Environmental

Protection Agency takes regulatory or remedial action. The tests also showed copper levels far below the EPA action level.

Rockville's latest efforts to provide safe, reliable drinking water include new chemical feed systems at the city's water treatment plant on the Potomac River. On March 21, the plant began full-time use of ferric chloride to coagulate and

remove organic compounds from the river water, improving the quality of the city's drinking water.

Learn more about the source and quality of Rockville's drinking water by viewing the full Annual Water Quality Report at www.rockvillemd.gov/annualwaterquality2017. To speak with someone about the report, call 240-314-8556. ✚

Problematic Streetlight? Here's How to Report It

Have you ever looked up at a flickering street light, or one with a dead bulb, and wondered who you should tell?

The good news is, it's pretty easy to report streetlight outages online, as long as you know who to report to – Pepco or the city. Knowing where to go to do that is as easy as the difference between a wood and metal pole.

Lights on wooden utility poles are fed by overhead power and in most cases are owned and maintained by Pepco. (About 25 wooden-pole mounted lights on Route 28 are the responsibility of the city.)

Lights in most cases on metal poles are fed by underground power and are owned and maintained by the city. (Some metal poles on private streets are maintained by homeowners associations.)

In both cases, the wiring serving the majority of lights is maintained by Pepco, and for power outages affecting those streetlights, Pepco makes the repair.

Outages or problems with lights on wooden, Pepco-owned poles can be reported at <https://pepco.streetlight>



outages.com. It's useful to note the closest street address and the number posted on the pole. Once the report is filed, Pepco emails a case number and estimated repair time, then follows up with an emailed notification once repairs are made.

For problems with lights on city-owned metal poles, file a report at www.rockvillemd.gov/reportaconcern. A map linked to the streetlight report form helps users identify the light's location. Providing the nearest street address is also a big help. City staff will respond with updates on the repair.

Learn more at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville. Search "streetlight maintenance." ✚

Brewing Zoning and APFS on Agenda

A zoning ordinance amendment to allow breweries and distilleries in Rockville will be under discussion at a July 10 meeting of the Mayor and Council.

The amendment, if approved, would allow full production of alcoholic beverages in light and heavy industrial zones, and in the mixed-use employment zone. Limited production, such as micro-brew-

eries and micro-distilleries, could also take place in mixed-use business, mixed-use transit district, mixed-use corridor district and mixed-use employment district zones.

A public hearing before the Mayor and Council is scheduled for Sept. 11.

APFS Alterations

Changes to Rockville's Adequate Public Facilities

continued on pg. 6...

Deadline for New Seniors/Veterans Tax Credit is Sept. 1

Longtime property owners and retired military members who live in Montgomery County could qualify for a new tax credit under a bill passed by the Montgomery County Council earlier this year.

The 20 percent credit applies to property taxes for owner-occupied dwellings for which at least one of the owners meet the following eligibility requirements: Have owned and lived in the dwelling they own for at least 40 consecutive years; or are retired from one of the U.S. armed forces (Air Force,

Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps or Navy). The credit is only granted for five consecutive years. (Dwelling refers to the entire property, which includes home and land.)

For 2017 taxes only, the application deadline for the credit is Sept. 1. In other tax years, the application deadline will be April 1. For example, for a tax credit in 2018, the application deadline is April 1, 2018.

For more details and a printable application form, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance/bill-42-16.html. ✚

Ride On extRa to Offer Options on MD 355

Ride On will launch a new, limited stop, higher-speed bus service in October on Route 355.

The new service, called Ride On extRa, will run every 10 minutes from 5:30-9:30 a.m. and 3:30-7:30 p.m., with 12 stops between the Medical Center Metro station in Bethesda and the Lakeforest Transit Center in Gaithersburg.

At Ride On extRa bus stops, passengers will be able to connect to Metro's Red Line, 15 Metrobus routes, MARC's Brunswick Line, MTA's Commuter Bus service, and 42 Ride On routes. Stops serving Rockville include the Shady Grove Metro station, Montgomery College, the Rockville Metro station, Edmonston Drive and Halpine Road.

Ride On extRa buses will operate 30-40 percent quicker than local buses due to the limited stops and the use of Transit Signal Priority, which will detect the buses as they

approach select intersections and hold signals green to allow buses to pass through. The buses will have Wi-Fi and USB charging outlets.

"Maryland Route 355 is one of the most heavily used corridors in Montgomery County, so while we continue to plan for Bus Rapid Transit on this roadway, the new Ride On extRa service will move people more quickly in modern, sleek vehicles with enhanced amenities," said Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett. "Giving travelers more options can reduce the number of cars on this highly congested thoroughfare and ease the commute for the remaining drivers."

County transportation department staff outlined the new service during the Mayor and Council's June 12 meeting. Learn more and find video of the presentation at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ✚

APS is About Pedestrian Safety

Rockville is completing a multiyear effort to improve pedestrian safety with accessible pedestrian signals – or APS – on all city-owned traffic lights.

The signals are designed to help visually impaired pedestrians feel more secure when crossing the street. They beep to help walkers locate push buttons that activate the walk signals. The buttons vibrate and are tactile, allowing pedestrians to feel the shape of an arrow indicating the direction to cross, which is also described by signs in braille.

Once the button is pushed, the signals give audible instructions, such as "wait," "walk" or rapid beeps, and display a red "stop" hand, a walking figure or numbers counting down to the stop signal. Intersections with the signals also include ramps that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The signals have been installed at 45 intersections, with two more – at Twinbrook Parkway and Chapman Avenue, and East Jefferson Street and Rollins Avenue – planned before the end of June 2018.

Find video of the new signals in action at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville. Search "APS."

Floodplain Ordinance Changes Take Effect July 1

Changes to the city's floodplain ordinance that take effect July 1 will create a more rigorous process for approving construction in the floodplain and remove previously allowed exemptions to what can be built there.

The floodplain is land near a stream that could be inundated by a so-called 100-year flood. The city's ordinance continues to ban new development in the floodplain.

Revisions to federal and state regulations required several changes to the ordinance, which the Mayor and Council unanimously adopted in January. The changes require property owners in the floodplain to obtain a permit, which allows the city to set conditions on new construction, review and approve construction plans, inspect construction and obtain Federal Emergency Management Agency-required documentation. Floodplain construction of new public facilities and minor projects, such as utilities, fences and play or seating equipment, will now require permits.

City staff sent letters to owners of properties within the floodplain to explain the new permitting requirements. Staff is available to guide owners in making safer choices about placement and design of improvements to minimize potential flood damage.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/floodplain to learn more about the ordinance and to find flood preparation and safety tips and an interactive map that can help assess flood risks.

Metro and Ride On Have New Fares, Service Changes

Increased fares for Metrorail, Metrobus and Ride On took effect June 25.

Metrorail also began new hours and service changes as it transitioned out of its yearlong SafeTrack program and into a regular program of preventive maintenance for safer, more reliable rail service. New Metrorail hours of operation are 5 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday; 7 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday; and 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday.

For Metrorail customers, most fares increased by 10-25 cents. Regular Metrobus fares rose to \$2, a 25-cent increase. Trips have been added to bus routes to provide service in key corridors that no longer have late night or early weekend rail service. Learn more about Metro's new hours, service and fares at www.wmata.com/service/status/details/june-25-changes.cfm.

Ride On fares also increased. Find the new fares at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-transit.



CITY HALL IN YOUR 'HOOD!: There aren't too many doctors who make house calls anymore. But Rockville's Mayor and Council and city staff will bring City Hall to your community with a walking town meeting. Walking town meetings offer a casual environment for city leaders and staff to meet community members where they live and see and discuss firsthand the issues facing a neighborhood. See what it's all about in a Rockville 11 video and learn how to bring a walking town meeting to your community at www.rockvillemd.gov/walkingtownmeeting.

Save the Date: Rocktoberfest is Oct. 7

The city's Rocktoberfest celebration will be held from noon-6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7 in Rockville Town Center.

The free festival, which will coincide with the visit of a delegation from Pinneberg, Germany to mark 60 years as Rockville's sister city, will feature local breweries and two stages of music, including the Rockville German Band, the German polka of Mike Surratt and The Continentals, and eclectic cover tunes by Vinyl Rhino.

The city is seeking vendors, especially of German-themed food and crafts. The festival is within walking distance of the Rockville Metro station.

Interested vendors should contact Amanda Knox at aknox@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8620.

Get Moving with Adult Sports

Registration for adult sports leagues is open until Sept. 7 for a slew of activities to keep you healthy, involved and moving throughout fall.

Men's softball, men's basketball and women's volleyball leagues are open for play, as well as co-rec soccer 7s, co-rec reverse softball and co-rec volleyball. Most leagues begin games in September (men's softball begins the week of Aug. 21). The city's Sports Division maintains a list of individual players for teams that need to complete their rosters.

Deadlines to register are: Soccer 7s: Aug. 25; men's basketball: Sept. 7; men's softball: Aug. 3; co-rec softball: Aug. 21; co-rec volleyball: Aug. 21; women's volleyball: Aug. 21.

Find out more by calling 240-314-8620, emailing sports@rockvillemd.gov or visiting www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports.

New Recreation Guide Due Out Aug. 1

Look out for the fall recreation guide, "Rockville Life," from the City of Rockville, due out Aug. 1.

The guide is packed with programs, courses and events for those who live and work in the city (or who are just visiting), for all ages, including sports, arts, before- and after-school care, and health and fitness.

This year's registration deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 2 for general registration, Aug. 1 for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, Aug. 15 for members of Rockville Senior Center and Aug. 17 for nonresidents and non-members of the senior center.

See the guide online, beginning Aug. 1, at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide, with printed copies available at City Hall, community centers and other facilities.

Skate Park Hours, Helmet Policy to Change

Operational changes are coming to Rockville's skate park, July 1. Two of the most significant are to the facility's hours of operation and helmet policy.

The park's hours for the summer season, from June 15-Sept. 3, will be 3-8 p.m., Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday; and noon-8 p.m., Sunday. Hours change seasonally. Check the skate park's website for updates — www.rockvillemd.gov/skatepark.

To promote safety, all park users (of any age) must wear a protective helmet. While some "loaner" helmets will be available, visitors are encouraged to bring their own. Staff members will be on duty to enforce this policy during operating hours.

Journey from 'Spamalot' to 'Almost, Maine' at the F. Scott Theater

"On second thought, let's not go to Camelot. It is a silly place."

Immortal words from the iconic movie, "The Holy Grail," will be heard in Rockville in July with Rockville Musical Theatre's production of "Monty Python's Spamalot," coming soon to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Performances will be at 8 p.m., July 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22; and at 2 p.m., July 16 and 23. Tickets cost \$22, \$20 for students and seniors 62 and older.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Almost, Maine," a mythical New England town where love is in the winter air, coming and going in strange, unexpected and hilarious ways. Performances are at 8 p.m.,



Sept. 22, 23, 29 and 30, with a 2 p.m. matinee Sept. 24 and Oct. 1. Tickets are \$22, \$20 for students and seniors 62 and older.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be closed during construction July 24-Aug. 7 to install new house bar lights and reinforce the roof beam, and will resume normal hours on Aug. 8. Tickets for upcoming performances can always be purchased online at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre. ❖

Impersonations and 'Sassy' Chamber Music Feature at Gallery Openings

Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash and Dean Martin are among the characters who will help open Glenview Mansion Art Gallery's July-August exhibition's opening reception — in the person of impersonator Billy Finch and his act, "Legends."

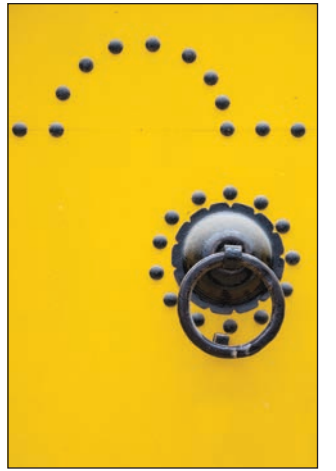
The Sunday, July 9 reception begins at 1:30 p.m., with Finch taking the stage at 2, ably assisted by the talented Minerva.

The exhibition runs until Aug. 19 and features:

- Brad Blair: ceramic creatures.
- Marleen Van den Neste: street photography.
- Jack Martinelli: new works.
- Magdalena Bajll: photography, "Door to Tunisia."

District5 Quintet, a daring, passionate and a little sassy chamber wind ensemble will be the Aug. 27 Sunday Afternoon Concert. The new exhibition opens at 1:30 p.m. District5 begins its performance at 2.

On display until Oct. 6 are:



Magdalena Bajll, "Door to Tunisia."

- Chet Stein: nature photography.
- Tinam Valk: layered, mixed-media images.
- Donna McGee: richly colored abstracts.
- Xiaosheng Bi: fine porcelain sculpture.

These events are free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are required. For more information, email Julie at jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/glenviewgallery. ❖

Sign Up Now for New Registration System

Beginning in July, users will be able to sign up for accounts on Rec1, the new registration system for booking facilities and signing up for programs, classes and events from the City of Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department.

The new system will replace Rock Enroll and has a number of features to make it easier for users, including simplified account creation, a powerful search

function, and simple, efficient ways to browse and pay for Recreation and Parks offerings.

Users will no longer have to create accounts to register, and will be able to search, register and pay for activities and leagues, view memberships and manage profiles on any computer, tablet or smartphone.

To browse Rec1 and sign up for an account, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/life. ❖

APFS Alterations

continued from pg. 5...

Standards (APFS) have been proposed that would alter standards for school capacity and fire and emergency services response.

The APFS ensures that sufficient infrastructure is available to serve new development in Rockville, and sets standards for traffic and transportation, school capacity, fire and emergency services response, and water and sewer capacity.

A revision to the school capacity test would bring the city's APFS standards in line with the county's. Another revision would delete the fire and emergency services standard, as the city does not have jurisdiction over fire and emergency services.

View the full APFS with proposed revisions at <http://md-rockville.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/19887>.

A public hearing on the revisions is scheduled for Sept. 18. ❖

Rockville Little Theatre Ushers in its 70th Year

Seven decades and 291 productions later, Rockville Little Theatre is still going strong. In May, the Mayor and Council recognized Rockville Little Theatre for their 70th birthday, which falls this year.

Formed in 1947 by six friends, the Rockville Little Theatre presented its first production on Nov. 26, 1948. In the 70 years since, the company's 291 productions have involved thousands of actors and behind-the-scenes volunteers.

"[The Mayor and Council] recognize and thank the theater company for their years of dedication to the performing arts and cultural community service in the City of Rockville," the recognition reads.

The certificate of recognition was presented to Rockville Little Theatre's president, Dean Fiala.

"We are excited that you appreciate the importance of live theater in the digital

Rockville
Little
Theatre

age, and take it as evidence of Rockville's commitment to being a cultural and creative center," Fiala said at the meeting.

RLT's season at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre begins in September with "Almost, Maine," then "The Underpants" in January and February, and, finally, "Radium Girls," in spring. "Almost, Maine" runs Sept. 22-Oct. 1. Tickets are \$22 (\$20 for seniors 62 and older and students).

For more on RLT, visit www.rlt-online.org. For information about the F. Scott Fitzgerald's shows and performances, and to buy tickets, see www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre. ❖

Connect with us
on Social Media.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: City of Rockville Facebook pages include City of Rockville; Rockville City Police Department; Fitzgerald Theatre of Rockville Maryland; Croydon Creek Nature Center; City of Rockville Sports Leagues and City of Rockville Farmers Market. **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:** @rockville411, @rockville11 and @alertrackville and @RockvilleRec.

Four Weeks of Free, Family-Friendly 'Movies in the Parks'

Rockville's free outdoor "Movies in the Parks" on the big screen return to neighborhood parks throughout the city on Wednesdays in August.

Bring chairs, blankets, food and beverages and enjoy four family-friendly movies at four different neighborhood parks. Movies begin at dusk (about 8 p.m.) and are free.

The 2017 schedule is:

- **"Toy Story"** (Rated G) on Aug. 2 at Montrose Park, 451 Congressional Lane.
- **"Sing"** (PG) on Aug. 9 at Falls Grove Park, 700 Falls Grove Drive.
- **"The Sandlot"** (PG) on Aug. 16 at Woodley Gardens Park, 900 Nelson St.
- **"Zootopia"** (PG) on Aug. 23 at Calvin Park, 1248 Gladstone Drive.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/moviesintheparks.

Farmers Market Offers Fresh Produce

Rockville's Farmers Market gives shoppers their pick of farm-fresh produce and more from regional grower/producers.

This year's market includes vendors offering fruits and vegetables, plants and flowers, herbs, baked goods, local beer and wine, knife sharpening, meat and coffee.

The market is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, through Nov. 18 in the jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets in Rockville Town Center.

The market participates in the Maryland Market Money Program. The program helps provide greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables for customers using the Farmers Market Nutrition Program; the Women, Infants, and Children Fruit and Vegetable Check Program; and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). Participants' benefits are matched up to \$5 each week while funds are available. Organizations or individuals wishing to contribute to the Maryland Market Money program should email specialevents@rockvillemd.gov.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers for more information, including a list of participating vendors, approximate harvest dates for select fruits and vegetables, and a photo gallery. For more information, call 240-314-8620.

Peace Day Party to Celebrate Teen Activist's Legacy

A Peace Day Party, 3-6 p.m., Sunday, July 16, will celebrate the life, legacy and birthday of late teen poet and peace activist Mattie J.T. Stepanek, with events held both indoors and outdoors.

The free outdoor party will be held on King Farm Village Green, 800 Pleasant Drive, and will feature cake, conversation and peace activities. At Botanero Restaurant, guest bartenders will make Sunrise Sangrias and Sunset Cervezas (for adults) and Tie-Dye Peace Punch (for kids). Proceeds from the sales will benefit the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation.

Entertainment will include music from the Black and Tan Band and a demonstration from Kick's Karate Demo Team.

For more information, visit the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation online at www.mattieonline.com.



Renovations Planned for Swim and Fitness Center

Public Feedback Encouraged Through Online Survey

Plans to modernize and expand the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's locker room and lobby are underway.

Key elements of the project include increasing the size and capacity of the locker room; modernizing infrastructure and amenities; improving Americans with Disabilities Act compliance; providing family and gender-neutral locker room areas; and reconfiguring the lobby.

An open house in June allowed attendees to see a presentation of the conceptual design, review highlights of facility areas, talk to city staff and the design team, and provide feedback.

A survey to gather public input on the conceptual design is available at <http://bit.ly/RSFCsurvey>.

Significant architectural and engineering work still has to be completed before final plans are ready to be submitted for permit approval and construction bids.

To receive emailed updates on the project's progress, sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter and click the tab labeled "Alerts/Notify Me." Renovations updates will also be available at www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfc Renovations.

Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is a full-service aquatics, fitness and recreation facility located at 355 Martins Lane. The facility features two indoor and three outdoor pools along with a whirlpool and fitness and exercise room. ❖

Still Plenty to do for Kids and Teens this Summer!

There's still time to register for summer programs, including summer camps, for teens and kids.

Camps are open to city residents and nonresidents age 3-16 with single and multi-week options. Camps run through Sept. 1 and spaces are still available. **Summer Blast**, Rockville's traditional all-day, all summer camp for ages 5-11 will run until Aug. 11 at Richie Park, College Gardens and Lakewood elementary schools, until Aug. 18 at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, and the weeks of Aug. 14 and 21 for **Extended Summer Blast** at Elwood Smith Recreation Center.

If you're looking for camps in late summer, consider these:

- **Last Hurrah** (ages 5-12): Crafts, organized games, sports and other fun activities. (Aug. 21-25 and Aug. 28-Sept. 1.)

- **Don't Forget About August** (ages 5-13): Cool summer activities that include sports and games, arts and crafts, field trips, swimming and more. (9 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 7-11 and 14-18.)
- **Teens on the Go**, which runs throughout July and the first two weeks of August, has fun, safe and adventurous trips and activities for sixth to 10th graders, including swimming, river tubing, museums, theme parks, rope courses and laser tag. For more information, including cost, registration deadlines and how to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/teens.

For more details on summer activities, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/guide and select the "Camps" tab to view Rockville's summer camp guide. For Summer Blast, see page 5 of the guide. ❖

Rockville Named Playful City USA for a Fourth Time

Program Recognizes Great Places for Kids to Play

For a fourth time, the City of Rockville has been honored as a Playful City by the nonprofit organization KaBOOM! in a national program recognizing towns and cities across the U.S. that value great places for kids to learn and play.

Rockville is home to more than 1,000 acres of parkland, with 65 parks that feature a wide range of amenities and activities, from playgrounds to picnic tables to pavilions.

Since 1996, KaBOOM! has collaborated with partners to build, open or improve nearly 16,700 playgrounds, engaged more than 1 million volunteers and served 8.5 million kids. The Playful City USA program honors cities and towns across the country that put the needs of families first so kids can learn, grow and develop important life skills. These communities are transforming ordinary places into playful spaces and using play as a solution to the challenges facing their residents.

2017's Playful City USA recognitions include 258 communities, from Richmond, Virginia to Richmond, California, that make it as easy as possible for kids to play. In total, the communities feature more than 14,000 safe and engaging play spaces that serve more than 4 million children. Rockville was one of four Maryland municipalities recognized. Baltimore, Capitol Heights and Takoma Park were also



honored.

"The well-being of our communities starts with the well-being of our kids, and play is critical for them to thrive. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all kids get the childhood they deserve filled with play," KaBOOM! CEO James Siegal said.

With three community centers, a nature center, civic center, swim and fitness center and senior center, the city offers numerous opportunities to be active. From classes to camps, sports leagues to arts programs, Rockville's award-winning programs make the city a place packed with ways to play. Nine out of 10 people responding to the 2016 City of Rockville Survey reported that they had visited a Rockville park at least once in the previous 12 months, and 82 percent rated the range of activities in city parks as "excellent" or "good."

To see the full list of Playful City USA communities, visit <http://kaboom.org/playfulcityusa>. Learn more about Rockville's recreation programs, parks and playgrounds at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation. ❖

Federal Priorities

continued from pg. 3...

ing for bridge rehabilitation, asphalt repair and replacement, sanitary sewer system improvements and stormwater system renovation.

- **Truck weight and length:** Continued opposition to efforts to change national standards and

allow trucks of greater weight and length.

Find more information, including video of the Mayor and Council's May 22 discussion of the federal priorities at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. For more on Rockville's federal priorities, contact Linda Moran at lmoran@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8115. ❖



Get Into It

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VIRGINIA D. ONLEY
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Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.



BACK IN THE DAY: Rockville was so excited to announce its new registration system, Rock Enroll, that a lengthy story ran on the front of the August 2001 edition of "Rockville Reports." The big news was you'd no longer have to wait in line to sign up for classes and activities. Instead, you could use the phone (gasp!) and ... the Internet! See our story on Recl, the brand-new registration system, on page 6. Check back in 16 years to see what we'll say about it then.